

The Groundplane

The monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

May 2008

Volume 9 Issue 5

Bill, WB9YVM — Editor

Fremont, Ca.

2008 FIELD DAY K3 RAFFLE

Thanks to all the members and Bay Hams who have purchased their K3 raffle tickets in person or by e-mail. It has been the most popular way that you have used to buy them and is the easy way to get your tickets and support this year's Field Day K3 raffle fundraiser. E-Mail Al Rendon (wt6k@arrl.net) with the quantity you want and he will mail them to you. It is that easy!

For those of you who are planning to attend the May SBARA Meeting at Hurricane Electric, tickets will be available for you to purchase.

For those of you who have yet to make up your mind regarding the purchase of raffle tickets, the SBARA leadership team thanks you in advance for your continued support.

73,
See you Friday May 9th at the membership meeting!
SBARA Leadership Team



From Brad....Here's something that may be new to some of you.... Google Earth map data for Ionospheric Maximum Usable Frequency, F2 layer statistics, etc, in both current data and real-time format. These data are files in Google Earth KML XML format, which starts up in Google Earth and displays as an overlay.

Page:

<http://terra1.spacenvironment.net/~ionops/ES4Dintro.html>

Article:

<http://www.sunherald.com/447/story/527646.html>
Leigh/WA5ZNU



Volunteers are needed for the Hayward Zucchini Festival...Details In

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2008 Field Day Web Page Good to Go:

The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay> is up and running. The page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links.

There is also a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, pins and other supplies. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said supplies will begin shipping in early March, but it's not too early to place a pre-order now. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

ARRL Field Day is June 28-29, 2008 at SBARA's location at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont, Ca. More details to follow.....

Volunteers are needed to make SBARA Field Day a BIG Success !!!!



CLUB PICTURES and PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

SBARA needs a club member who can take digital pictures of club events, meetings, and public service activities that can be included in the **Groundplane**. No formal application is required. Just email your low-resolution JPEG picture files (no larger than 250K per pictures) to the Editor at:

hamradio@comcast.net. The **Groundplane** reaches a "Worldwide Audience".



The Meaning of Field Day

WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise Sponsored by the America Radio Relay League which encourages emergency communications preparedness. It typically is the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country with over 30,000 ham radio operators participating each year.

Since the first Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents In remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe

weather.

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component and many clubs also engage in associated fun activities of camping out and having cookouts for the participants. Operations are typically for a continuous 24 hours requiring the scheduling of relief operators to keep the stations going through the night. Additional contest points are awarded for such things as experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts through space satellites and involving youth in the activity.

In the Western Hemisphere the ARRL Field Day is held annually the fourth full weekend in June (June 28-29 in 2008). The IARU Region 1 sponsors an Amateur Radio Field Day for Europe, and other national Amateur Radio societies sponsor them in other countries.

CQ Communications

CQ Communications, Inc. of Hicksville, New York, publisher of CQ Amateur Radio magazine, and Buckmaster Publishing of Mineral, Virginia, jointly announce that Buckmaster's searchable online archive of CQ magazine back issues, dating back to the magazine's first issue in January 1945, is now complete. The searchable archive may be accessed via the internet at <http://hamcall.net/cq> or via a one-click link from the CQ website homepage at

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

All issues through early 2006 are now online, according to Buckmaster President Jack Speer, N1BIC. By agreement with CQ, issues are not posted until two years after their publication dates, as paper copies are still available from the CQ bookstore. Newer issues will be posted as the two-year "window" expires.

<http://newsvc.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

Ham Radio Humor — Author Unknown

REWARD OFFERED:

A REWARD OF 500 MICROFARADS IS OFFERED FOR THE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF HOP-A-LONG CAPACITY. THIS UNRECTIFIED CRIMINAL ESCAPED FROM A WESTERN PRIMARY CELL WHERE HE HAD BEEN CLAMPED IN IONS AWAITING THE GAUSS CHAMBER. HE IS CHARGED WITH THE INDUCTION OF AN 18 TURN COIL NAMED MILLI HENRY WHO WAS FOUND CHOKED AND ROBBED OF VALUABLE JOULES. HE IS ARMED WITH A CARBON ROD AND IS A POTENTIAL KILLER. CAPACITY IS ALSO CHARGED WITH DRIVING DC MOTOR OVER A WHEATSTONE BRIDGE AND REFUSING TO LET THE BAND-PASS. IF ENCOUNTERED, HE MAY OFFER SERIES OF RESISTANCE. THE ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE SPENT THE NIGHT SEARCHING FOR HIM IN A MAGNETIC FIELD, WHERE HE HAD GONE TO EARTH. THEYHAD NO SUCCESS AND BELIEVED HE HAD RETURNED OHM VIA A

SHORT CIRCUIT HE WAS LAST SEEN RIDING A KILOCYCLE WITH HIS FRIEND EDDY CURRENT WHO WAS PLAYING A HARMONIC.

Memorial Day History

Memorial day was formerly known as Decoration Day. This holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. It began first to honor Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, it was expanded to include those who died in any war or military action. One of the longest standing traditions is the running of the Indianapolis 500, which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911. It is also traditionally viewed as the beginning of summer by many.

**REMEMBER OUR FALLEN HEROES
FROM ALL WARS.....**

Ham Radio Podclass

The ham radio class PodClass is hosted and taught by John Martin, KF8KK and Mike Dell, N7LMJ. John and Mike are both Amateur Extra class Ham Radio Licensees and have over (combined) 50 years in ham radio. This podcast will prepare you to take the *Technician Class ham radio exam* or your *General Upgrade Exam* at an FCC Volunteer exam session.

For more information go to — <http://hamradioclass.org/>

Treasurers Report, May — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

Dear SBARA member,

In a meeting last Wednesday the SBARA board decided to provide more transparency to our financial transactions. Once a year I will give a general overview over the previous year's balance. The best time for this is probably at tax day for corporations, which is mid of May, when SBARA has to declare its balance anyways to the State of California (we don't need to declare to the IRS). So you may expect this for the next Groundplane edition.

Now to what I can report so far for the past month. In a nutshell, SBARA is in a very good cash position. The membership renewal fees and the income from the K3 fieldday raffle will allow us to purchase material and devices for the field day, and so to attract more members. The annual membership fees have almost completely arrived, only a very few members still have not paid. We have to be grateful to a number of very active members who spent a lot of their spare time going to swap meetings and selling field day raffle tickets.

We broke even with the expenses we had for

the K3 and some accompanying cost like admission/parking fees and the ticket print job (totaling \$1,712.17 so far!), and already are well on the positive side.



On March 31st our current deposit account contained \$4,890.09. There are \$1,262.61 income since this date, most of it are K3 raffle ticket sales, a few late membership payments add to it, and a state tax fee return from last year (\$10.41). On the other side we had payments in April of \$367.14 for field day antenna material, World Radio annual fee, newsletter mailings, the ARRL QSL office and the 147.015 repeater radio repair. The account status therefore will be \$5,785.36 at the beginning of May.

For the next editions I will have to work on a possibly better scheme to present this to you, but please bear with me: I had only a few hours spare to prepare for this Groundplane edition. I will be happy to answer your questions during the next SBARA meeting, which is going to take place on May 9th, Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court, at 7:30 p.m.. 73!....Bernhard, AE6YN



Field Day 2008 Planning Meeting—By Al Rendon, WT6K

Plans are well underway for this year's SBARA Field Day event. SBARA's exchange will be "KU6S 4A EAST BAY" with stations operating on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

SBARA is going to make an effort to be involved in as many of the "Bonus Points" categories as we can find volunteers to take the lead in each bonus point area. Brad Douglas KB8UYR/6 is organizing the bonus point team and if you want to have some fun at Field Day, join Brad in this worthwhile and interesting part of the event. There are some changes in the rules for this year:

- ***GOTA station can be on any Field Day band (HF or VHF).***

- ***GOTA can be operated by anyone licensed since FD 2007, regardless of class.***

Sam WS6S and Carol W6GEM will team up to set up and instruct anyone interested on how to operate a HF station by making contacts on 15 meters. They are interested in operators under 18 years of age so please help out by in-

viting any youth to the event. Take them to the GOTA tent and Carol and Sam will take over and get them on the air.

- ***Demonstration bonuses replaced with Educational Activity bonuses.***

In this last area, "Educational Activity", Brad is looking for ideas and people to put on the activity. One year one of our members put on a demonstration on how to install PowerPole connectors. This is what Brad will be looking for from the membership. If you have a "knowledge" on one aspect of the hobby and are willing to share it with the membership and public at Field Day, let Brad know.

So put June 28th and 29th on your calendar. We will be setting up on the 27th in the morning. Come on down, as they say, and help out with the fun!

SBARA Leadership Team

What is the digital television transition?

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

Primavera Bicycle Ride — Tony Flusche, AB6BR

15 Hams from SBARA provided communication support for the 2008 Fremont Freewheelers Primavera Bicycle event. We provided operators at all 5 rest stops, Ed Levin, Sunol, Waterstop (Greenville Rd and 580), *Garré* Winery in Livermore, Palo Verde (at the north end of Palomares) and the start/finish at Logan High School in Union City. We also had operators in 7 SAG vehicles.

I want to thank everyone who helped: Mike Fung (WA6AWI), Brian Wong (KE6ITT), Steve and Doug Wilson (KA6S), Jim Wood

(KE6IVA), Umesh Ghodke (K6VUG), Ray Wong (KE6OGM), Florence Wong (KF6GAH), Dick Gorringer (WA6STR), Joann Wood (WV6RQT), Bernhard Hailer (AE6YN), Brad Douglas (KB8YUR), Steve Wilson (KG6HJU), Al Rendon (WT6K), Stu and Kaethe Langs (AA6SL) and Tony Flusche (AB6BR).

For more information about the Fremont Freewheelers and Primavera go to their web page:

<http://www.ffbc.org>

Hayward Zucchini Festival — Al Rendon, WT6K

Want to practice your emergency communication technique? Well this year once again SBARA will be providing the communications support at the Hayward Zucchini Festival on August 16th and 17th. You will join other SBARA members in a controlled net environment using business band radios provided by the festival management. You will provide communications from one of the many entrance gates back to net control during your shift. We need to fill 22 shifts each day and because we will not be using amateur radio frequencies we receive a nice stipend for all the

shifts we cover with members like you.

Please consider helping out. It is our major fund raiser of the year and the money we earn makes it possible for the club to do many activities otherwise not possible.

Looking forward to seeing some of the new members and of course the members who have participated for years. It is a fun event and you can bring the family. Your participation give the family free entrance and you get a free lunch.

SBARA Leadership Team

SBARA Reflector — Al Rendon, WT6K

How do you join the new SBARA Club reflector? It was established by Mike Studer K6EEP, SBARA's Technical Adviser as a forum to ask questions of our many 'experts' in the club, express your opinion on a current question or to discuss an amateur radio topic dear to your heart. If you haven't joined yet and would like to, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbarahams/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&lk=1>

and 'click' on "Join This Group" in the Blue box above the SBARA Field Day site photograph. Then when the sign up window opens, if you do not have a Yahoo ID, 'click' on 'Sign Up' under "Don't have a Yahoo ID?"

Please join our new club reflector and become part of the discussions among the membership. Currently there are 32 registered members in the sbarahams group and in the last month there was an informative discussion regarding the new California "Hands Free" Cell Phone law and if/how it relates to hams using mobiles rigs in our cars.

As most of us are aware, the Groundplane Notification e-mail is only for communication from the leadership to the membership and you should not reply to any e-mail notifications you receive, like the monthly Groundplane and meeting notification. Instead, please join and use the sbarahams@yahoogroups.com reflector for your club communications needs.

73, Al Rendon, WT6K

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),
There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away

if somebody is really fast there! Just send a „bk“ and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, Al, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

Newark TESA Fair — Bill Artelt, WB9YVM



Members of the Union City CERT Team show their operating positions during the April 19th. Tri-Cities Emergency Services Association Fair at the Silliman Activity Center in Newark.

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- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

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South Bay Amateur Radio
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Founded 1974
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Sam Severs, WS6S

Douglas Wilson, KG6RHG

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email: AD6ZH@ARRL.NET
<<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM
MAP N37 19.490 W122 00.568

CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



Club Classifieds

List your items for sale or trade here.

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to Bill Artelt, WB9YVM before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter.

Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please.

Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months.

Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.



Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is
May 9th. Starting at 7:30pm

Our meeting location is at Hurricane
Electric. The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the
meeting and bring your HT !!
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

The Ground Plane — KU6S
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South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
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